

representatives from state and regional agencies gave presentations and participated in discussions.

In addition to results of season-long water-quality monitoring from across the watershed, most participants received a copy of the October-December 2007 *California Agriculture* with the excellent article by Knox et al., "Management reduces *E. coli* in irrigated pasture runoff."

Co-author Ken Tate, a member of the Project Team, discussed management practices that local agricultural owners who irrigate for forage and livestock could implement on their ranches, based upon work conducted at the UC Sierra Foothill Research and Extension Center and summarized in *California Agriculture*. Based on the article and Ken's comments, members of the Upper Feather River Watershed Group felt that greater efforts could be undertaken to reduce *E. coli* levels in local streams by having tailwater go through grassed waterways or mini-wetlands before returning to the main channel. Ranchers also felt that they could improve their grazing practices to minimize the time cattle are in actively irrigated fields. We will continue to monitor *E. coli* levels on behalf of ranchers next year and hopefully see some improvements.

Holly George
Livestock and Natural Resources Advisor
UC Cooperative Extension, Plumas-Sierra counties

To our readers



Andrea Laue

Laue leads *Cal Ag* into digital future

Andrea Laue joined *California Agriculture* journal as Web Editor on Aug. 1, 2007. Laue is leading a new digital publishing initiative to digitize copies of the journal dating back to 1946, and to redesign the information architecture of the journal's Web site. She will also work on increasing the journal's exposure in research databases and popular search engines such as Google. "*California Agriculture* content should be more findable, retrievable and usable online very soon," Laue says. In concert with *California Agriculture* and Communication Services staff, Laue is implementing a comprehensive proposal

that integrates the ideas and skill sets of collaborating staff.

Laue earned her Ph.D. in English and Digital Humanities from the University of Virginia in 2006. She has worked on several scholarly digital publishing projects, including the Mark Twain Project Online at UC Berkeley. Laue can be reached at (510) 642-2431, ext. 16, or andrea.laue@ucop.edu.

Service grants allow 4H-ers to build healthier communities

ON the morning of a school holiday in mid-November, 12-year-old Sean Boerger got a ride across town and presented his ideas for installing benches in a wetland to officials of the Siskiyou Land Trust. Boerger is junior leader of the Strawberry Valley 4-H woodworking group, and he knows about making and installing public benches. Last year, his group won a 4-H service-learning grant to provide benches at Siskiyou Lake. This year, a new grant of \$1,100 will allow the group to make benches for the Sisson Meadow Wetlands, which the land trust has recently restored in downtown Mt. Shasta.

"I think it's going to be fun for the group," Boerger says. "The benches will give people a place to sit and make the area look nicer, and we get to learn more woodworking skills."

That's exactly the concept of service learning — serving the community and, in the process, gaining educational opportunities. Last year, the community of Lake Siskiyou received beautiful, sturdily built benches, and Boerger and his group learned many things, including how a cedar snag is felled and turned into lumber at the town mill. On the new project, Boerger is looking forward to the trickiest aspect: "I'm not quite sure how we're going to do the foundation, because it's kind of swampy out there," he says.

The service-learning grants are part of the California 4-H Youth Development Program sponsored by the University of California Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources (the 4 H's stand for "Head, Heart, Hands and Health," and members pledge their hands to "larger service").

"The goal," says Pat English, California 4-H program representative, "is to expand members' skills in citizenship, leadership and life."



Strawberry Valley 4-H Club

With support from a 4-H service-learning grant, the Strawberry Valley 4-H woodworking group built and installed benches at Siskiyou Lake.